

Feather Tale

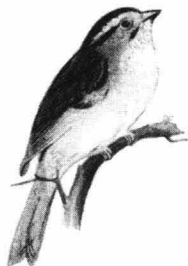


**Don't
forget to
check out
plans for
Audubon's
100th
Anniversary!
See page
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Annual Audubon Meeting

By Tom Day

Join us for our Annual Membership Meeting of the St. Louis Audubon Society at Powder Valley Nature Center on April 22, 2001. With the popularity of last year's format, we are planning a similar event, including more of Super Smokers' fantastic and plentiful BBQ! At 12:30 p.m., we will begin informal bird/nature walks led by members of the Society's Board of Directors. Lunch will begin at 1:30 inside the Nature Center.

At 2:45, we will present the St. Louis Audubon Society annual awards.

At 3:00, our guest speakers, Tom Bell, Manager of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and Dick Steinbach, Manager of the Mark Twain National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, will take over and talk about a \$1 million allocation, which was recently approved for Big Muddy from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The cost for the meeting (lunch) is \$10. All members of the St. Louis Audubon Society are welcome, but reservations are required. Please send your name(s) and check (\$10/person payable to the St. Louis Audubon Society) to:

Tom Day
29 Frederick Lane
St. Louis, MO 63122-1918.



Join Audubon's Speakers' Bureau

By Vicki Flier

Whew! We have been busy, so much so that we need additional speakers for the Education Speakers' Bureau. We are having a training session for all who are interested in joining our group.

It is so much fun to talk to the kids about the natural world and hooking them into the environment through the critters. If you want to make a difference, this is an easy, fun, and entertaining way to do so. We have a two-night training session, which starts in mid-April, and on-the-job training. We usually "team" teach so that you can't go too wrong. It is so much fun interacting with the kids. If interested, call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166.

Donations

We welcome donations to St. Louis Audubon Society. Such gifts honor those we cherish by promoting local conservation efforts. Please send donations to:

St. Louis Audubon Society
c/o Doyle Banks
Treasurer
1161 Quail's Nest
Ballwin, MO 63021.

Emerson Gives Donation

The St. Louis Audubon Society has received a charitable contribution of \$2,500 to further its education programs from Emerson Electric. In 1989, Emerson gave nearly \$4,000 for Audubon Adventures to be placed in all fifth grades classrooms in the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

We are grateful to Emerson for their continued interest in and financial support of environmental education in our metropolitan community.

Thank you to Emerson Electric from our Officers and Board of Directors.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published bi-monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 3,000 copies of each issue on recycled paper using soy ink. Reine Keis Bayoc assists with editing the issues.

The deadline for the June issue is May 10. Please send photos, articles, events, and letters to Ellen McCallie, Newsletter Editor.

e-mail
stltalefeathers@yahoo.com
phone 314/966-4131
post 705 W. Essex Ave.
2 St. Louis, MO 63122-3606

Spring Birding

with St. Louis Audubon

By Jim Malone

We have had some really great birding in the St. Louis area this winter, and many of you were there to share it with us! In January, those of us who braved the frigid temperatures and howling winds were rewarded with a great selection of waterfowl, and a couple of very special birds. An adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was located in the hundreds (maybe thousands) of Common Goldeneyes, and many of the participants on this trip got scope views of this unusual St. Louis visitor. Not to be outdone by the Goldeneye, a Smew was sighted in the river moving amongst the Mergansers and other diving ducks. This bird represents the first Missouri record for the species, and since the initial observations, birders from all over the country have viewed it! Additional great winter birds seen on this day included Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls, Green-winged Teal, Lapland Longspurs, and Rough-legged Hawks. Although we failed to find Short-eared Owls on this trip, no one seemed to mind.



In February, we visited Lake Baldwin (a first for St. Louis Audubon) and had another pleasant day with great people. On this trip, everyone got wonderful views of a cooperative Loggerhead Shrike and a front-row seat to see a young Cooper's Hawk grab it's dinner from the grass. If these outings sound like fun, join us on one of the following upcoming trips below.

April 7th (Saturday) Busch C.A. Our annual Woodcock Walk/Owl Prowl is one of the St. Louis Audubon Society's most popular annual events. Each spring in April, we go out near sundown to locate American Woodcocks making display flights. We also search the likely areas in Busch for early evening owls. If you would like to join us on this evening foray, meet in the Hampton Lake parking lot (just to the left as you enter Busch C.A.) at 6:00 p.m. To get to Busch C.A., take Highway 40 west to Highway 94. Turn south (left) on 94 and drive a couple of miles to the stoplight at Highway D. Turn Right at Highway D and follow it to the entrance of Busch.

April 21st (Saturday) Castlewood S. P. A great place to get a jump on spring in the St. Louis area is Castlewood State Park. This wooded area, nestled in a loop of the Meremac River, is wonderful for early warblers, Fish Crows, Red-shouldered Hawks, and lots of other great birds. This should be a very interesting trip with a high bird count! To get there, take Big Bend Rd. west from I-270 for about 6 miles. Turn left on Ries Rd. and follow it to the Castlewood entrance. Continue into the park—we will meet at the parking lot on the right side of the road, just before the creek. Join us there at 7:30 a.m.

May 6th (Sunday) Tower Grove Park. This week in May is the peak of warbler migration in St. Louis, and we will be visiting the very best locations to take it all in. On a good day during this week, it is not unusual to see as many as 20 species of migrating warblers. To get there, take Kingshighway south from I-44. Turn left at Magnolia. Follow Magnolia to the center of the park and turn right into the park at the light. Take the first road on the right and follow it to the northwest end of the park. We will meet in front of the Gady bird area at 8:00 a.m.

May 13th (Sunday) Forest Park Kennedy Woods. During the peak of warbler migration, if you aren't at Tower Grove Park, you should be in Kennedy Forest! Here you have lots of great opportunities to find warblers in the open and in the company of such colorful songsters as Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers. To join us, meet behind the Art Museum in Forest Park at 8:00 a.m. and come ready to look at some beautiful birds.

More birding trips on page 6!

**Your Invitation to a
Spring Birding Celebration**

ASM's 100th Anniversary

**May 4, 5, and 6, 2001
in St. Louis, Mo. Area**

The AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI is celebrating its 100th anniversary in the city where it was born in 1901. Hosting this spring's meeting is the St. Louis Audubon Society. All Audubon members and friends are invited to this unique celebration. On Friday and Saturday nights our meetings will be near the heart of St. Charles, Missouri.

**DON'T MISS THIS EXCEPTIONAL BIRDING
CELEBRATION FOR ANY REASON!**

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE: (FRI. 8AM-9PM)

Commemorative Enamel Birding Pin

Booklet on ASM History and Leaders:

A Century of Birding in Missouri

FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAM (7:30 PM)

Birds and the St. Louis Zoo: Early Years, New Displays, Future Plans.

Displays by Audubon Chapters; Silent Book Auction.

Share **TEN** of **YOUR** slides with us.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER AND PROGRAM (6:30 PM)

Pete Dunne, widely acclaimed birding speaker.

Director of Cape May Bird Observatory.

Author of five humorous birding books; copies to be available for autographs.

**ST. LOUIS AUDUBON MEMBERS WILL WANT TO
ENJOY THE SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER PROGRAM
WITH PETE DUNNE**, and the Friday night program as well.

Also, **AUDUBON BIRDERS** can help by offering to serve as leaders for the **FIELD TRIPS** to ten location; please contact **JIM OR CHARLENE MALONE** at 636-536-1119 for details.

Helpers are also needed on Friday May 4th for **REGISTRATION**; contact **PAUL BAUER** at 314-921-3972 for details.

FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAM starts at **7:30 PM**. Dress is casual. We are meeting at the Memorial Hall, VFW Room in **BLANCHETTE PARK** in St. Charles, MO. Take I-70 west across the Missouri River to the Fifth St. exit north (Exit #229). Continue on Fifth St. for 1.8 miles. Take a left turn onto Randolph St. Go 0.5 miles to the entrance of Blanchette Park on the right. Stay on the one-way loop drive in the park to Memorial Hall on the right. Enter the hall from the rear to go directly to the VFW Room.

The program will include a presentation by members of the St. Louis Zoo Staff about their experiences with birds in the collection: **Early Years, New Displays, and Future Plans**. Audubon Chapters from across the state will have displays, and we invite you to share ten of your nature slides with us. Active birders from all across Missouri will be available for conversation.

For the **SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER PROGRAM**, dress is casual. We will start about 6:30 PM; dinner at 7:30 PM. Our featured speaker, Pete Dunne, will start about 8:30 PM. Several of Pete's bird books will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

The catered dinner and program will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall at #3 Westbury Dr. This hall is located off of West Clay St. between First Capital Drive (I-70 exit #228) and Zumbhel (I-70 Exit #227). The hall is located near I-70 and behind the police station on West Clay. (Please don't drive through the police parking lot.)

**Registration Details
ASM's 100th Anniversary**

Please pre-register by **APRIL 25th**. Send this form or a copy with payment by check to: Paul Bauer/ASM, 4 Club Ground South Dr., Florissant, MO 63033.

Make check payable to **AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI**.

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____

Registration
(includes Commemorative Pin
and ASM History Booklet—
both are also sold separately)
Speaker and Dinner Tickets

Price x No. = Sub total
\$12.00 x _____ =
\$23.00 x _____ =
Total Enclosed: _____ **3**

It Doesn't Take Much

By Mitch Leachman

There are many reasons we join organizations like Audubon. I will be the first to admit my reason was for the magazine (and oh, what a glorious magazine it is). However, my guess is we all share a common concern for the environment. Whether that concern is for the well-being of the birds visiting your feeder, fear that your children will not always have clean air to breathe, or because you feel a connection to the natural world—a link weakened with every plant and animal lost to development.

Alas, in spite of a somewhat warm and fuzzy feeling we may get in organizations like this, the environment is truly a David next to the Goliaths of industry. All the major industries like energy, automobile, and agriculture, are supported, maintained, and defended by billion-dollar corporations. All of which have high-priced lawyers, lobbyists, and political action committees bending legislators' ears and drafting laws. Not only is industry not sufficiently encouraged to protect the environment, but in most cases they enhance their bottom line by despoiling it. Many conservation groups maintain staff in the capitol, but they are no match for the corporate heavyweights. That is, no match without some help.

That's where you come in. For all of industry's money and power, it is still no match for a motivated electorate. How many people do you know who have ever written their elected representatives on behalf of oil or automobiles? Whereas, many strides in environmental protection over the last two decades have been a direct result of grassroots phone calls and letter writing campaigns. You don't have to join a demonstration or change your lifestyle, just an occasional letter to an elected official expressing your concern about the environment.

Since some legislators are trying to press for oil exploration and development in the pristine, arctic wilderness, I protested by writing my first letter to Congress about preserving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It didn't take very long to write since the Arctic Wilderness League website provided me a sample letter. If the Arctic doesn't interest you, there are plenty of other issues that deserve attention and are highlighted at both the Audubon and Sierra websites. Finally, if you're less than thrilled about "surfing" or don't have a computer, call me and we can discuss other options (314-739-5112).

One letter may not seem like much, but how many people said the same thing about one vote prior to the last election! You need only to decide if your environmental concerns are worth a few minutes of your time. Just remember, it's our world—if we don't protect it, who will?



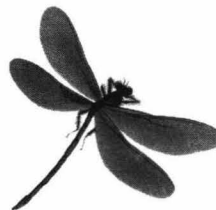
Migratory Bird Week Needs Volunteers

If you want to help educate the public on bird migration, please participate in the International Migratory Bird Day on May 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Dale at 636-394-6011, Pat at 636-825-8241, or Vicki at 314-968-9166 for more information. In addition, we are desperately seeking well-rinsed, one-gallon milk jugs. Please call Dale, Pat, or Vicki to arrange transportation.

We will meet on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Vicki's house for a work/training/social gathering. RSVP to Dale, Pat, or Vicki before the 25th. Thanks!



**Plan to attend St. Louis
Audubon's Annual Meeting
on April 22, 2001 at
Powder Valley N.C.**



Green Phoenix, May 5

The St. Louis Rainforest Alliance (SLRA) will sponsor a reading and slide show from Bill Allen, author of *Green Phoenix*, at the Missouri Botanical Garden in the Beaumont Room, Saturday, May 5th at 7:30 p.m.

Allen's book tells the story of Dan Jansen's monumental effort to re-grow and protect a huge patch of western Costa Rica. It is a wonderful story about some good things that are occurring in the tropics.

This event is free, so come, purchase a book, and get it signed from the author himself. See you there.

A Growing Controversy Over Missouri Water Missouri River

By David Wilson

Controversy erupted in the summer of 2000 over management of water in the Missouri River. Most people who live near the Missouri River have assumed that we have access to abundant water resources. Nearly one-third of the citizens of Missouri — nearly two million people in the St. Louis area — drink Missouri River water. Businesses and industry rely on the water for a variety of services. Wildlife also rely on the river habitat.

In this region of abundant water, few people have thought that the Missouri River could ever resemble the Colorado River, where today, a mere trickle reaches the mouth of the river. Many believe that proposals to hold more water behind dams on the upper Missouri River, thus providing improved recreation on lakes in the upper Missouri basin states, are the first moves in the war for the waters of Missouri.

In a letter to the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service in October 2000, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) director, Steve Mahfood, criticized the FWS for its failure to provide any scientific evidence for the proposed changes in the flow patterns of the river. The Missouri DNR agreed that there is a need to improve and rehabilitate habitat for endangered species, including the least tern, the piping plover, and the pallid sturgeon, but it strongly criticized the FWS for proposing solutions that restrict the volume of water reaching Kansas City and St. Louis, which may actually reduce critical habitat. There is evidence that the reduced flow on the river may seriously damage the wetlands habitat along the Missouri River, especially at Lisbon Bottoms in central Missouri, the only area where larval pallid sturgeon have been found in recent years.

The Corps of Engineers has now analyzed the Fish and Wildlife Service proposal and concluded that it will not do what it says it will do. Meanwhile, both the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society Chapters in South Dakota have expressed opposition to raising levels of water on the reservoirs because bird populations do better in low water. Missouri environmental groups are still studying the issue.

Clearly, this issue is not simple and is more than a debate between transportation and wildlife. St. Louis Earth Day, in collaboration with several partners, is sponsoring a conference on rivers and water on April 27th at the Missouri Botanical Garden. To learn more, see the March issue of the Healthy Planet or email earthdaystl@aol.com.

Notes from the President

By Mary Dueren

I hope everyone is feeling like we have rounded the corner and are headed for Spring! The days are getting longer and warmer. I am looking forward to meeting members at the Annual Membership Meeting set for Sunday, April 22, 2001 at Powder Valley Nature Center. This is a wonderful way to spend Earth Day. Look for more details in this newsletter.

Now, I would like to address a more serious issue: the threat of our regional air quality and the destruction 4000 acres of un-fragmented wilderness.

The proposed construction of the Holnam Cement Plant along the Mississippi River is a great threat to Missouri's and Illinois' air quality. There have been articles in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* about the cement plant. Many local and state agencies are questioning this project, while many environmental groups oppose it.

I would encourage our members to write your state and federal legislators, both the governors of Missouri and Illinois, and the Army Corp of Engineers. Our legislators must hear from everyone who opposes this development. This is yet another threat to Missouri's natural resources. Remember, we all live downstream, or in this case, downwind.

St. Louis Audubon Receives Emerson Electric Grant



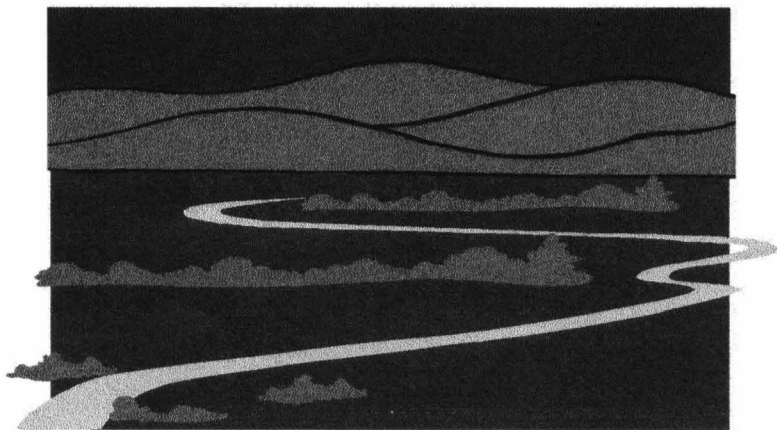
By Mary Dueren

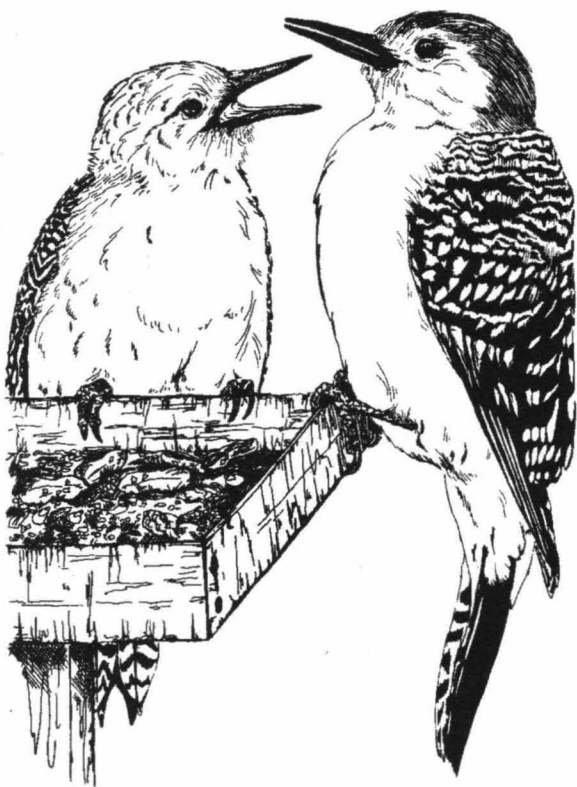
It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors announce the receipt of \$2500.00 from Emerson Electric. The contribution will further the mission of our chapter, which is to achieve a sustainable balance of our natural resources through education and conservation.

Much of the credit for this grant goes to Mary Lou Miller, past president of our chapter. She is a valued employee of Emerson Electric and a valued member of our chapter. Her time and persistence has paid off.

The reality of grassroots efforts, like a local Audubon chapter, is fundraising. Mary Lou is to be commended for her outstanding work.

Thank you, Mary Lou Miller and Emerson Electric, for your support!





Get the jump on Spring Migration!

By Jim Malone

The St. Louis Audubon Society is offering Audubon and WGNSS members a Spring weekend birding trip in Illinois from April 27th -29th. The last week in April is a bit early for the peak of Spring migration in St. Louis, so we decided to move South to meet the birds! During this extended weekend trip (Friday through Sunday) we will visit such beautiful locations as Oakwood Bottoms, LaRue-Pine Hills, Pomona, Cave Creek, Little Grand Canyon, Giantcity, and the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. We will be searching through hardwood forests, lowland bottoms, Mississippi River bluffs, riparian areas, and lakeside habitats at the peak of migration. Possible birds encountered on this trip will include a wide variety of warblers like nesting Cerulean, Blue-winged, Prothonotory, Worm-eating, and even Swainson's Warblers. We will also have a great chance at seeing (or hearing) Chuck-Will's-Widow, Black Necked Stilts, Blue Grosbeaks, Black Vultures, Fish Crow, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, migrating hawks, and a great variety of shorebirds and passerines.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to fine-tune those Spring birding skills before the peak of migration in St. Louis! We will be doing a bit of walking on this trip, but the scenery is some of the best you'll find anywhere. Reservations for this trip will be taken on a "first come - first served" basis and it may be necessary to limit numbers. If this sounds like a great weekend to you, contact Jim Malone at stlaud@inlink.com or call (636) 536-1119 to reserve a space. We will be asking for a \$40 per person donation from each trip participant to cover our costs and help develop future projects. Come join us for this Spring migration extravaganza!

Friends of St. Louis Audubon Society

Our Education, Conservation and Program committees have all undertaken new initiatives to expand and improve the effectiveness of our local activities. You have already read about some of these activities in *Tale Feathers* and there are more on the way. The Board of the St. Louis Audubon Society is committed to the implementation of these initiatives and is determined to get the necessary resources for their success.

As part of that effort, the Board has established a recognition program, *Friends of the St. Louis Audubon Society*. Recognition levels are as follows:

Great Blue Heron	\$125+
Great Egret	\$75-124
Snowy Egret	\$50-74
Little Blue Heron	\$20-49

We hope you share our commitment and will contribute to show your support of our local activities.

The St. Louis Audubon Society is a not-for-profit organization [501 (c) 3] and contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. Please make your checks payable to 'St. Louis Audubon Society' with a notation *Friends of SLAS*. Mail to

Doyle Banks, Treasurer
St. Louis Audubon Society
1161 Quails Nest Road
Ellisville, MO 63021

*Have you sent Tom Day
your reservation for the
Annual (BBQ) Meeting yet?*

**It's coming up soon!
See you April 22 at
Powder Valley.**

This form makes you a member of **both** National and St. Louis Audubon.

Please support your local chapter. Use this form to join or renew.

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

Membership category desired:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory/\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen/\$21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen Family/\$23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining/\$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting/\$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (____) |

Send a check made out to
National Audubon Society to:
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, MO 63122

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

N01 7XCH

(Your story or photo goes here!
Send them to stltalefeathers.com or
705 W. Essex., St. Louis, MO 63122)

Please write us with your
bird stories and tips.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2000-2001

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-822-6595

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Jerry Miller	314-389-3969
Dave Pierce	314-434-1651
Dale Ponce	636-394-6011
Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

Tyson Trails Day!

Three years, **two** directors, and **one** field station manager later, Tyson is ready to present its second, public open house. **Tyson Trails Day** will be Saturday, April 28th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., so please mark your calendar. The Friends of Tyson and the Tyson Field Science Program will host this event. This is a family-oriented event with many diverse activities.

Please contact Joyce Duncan at 314-935-8430 or via e-mail at tyson@biology.wustl.edu to volunteer your time.

St. Louis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 220227

St. Louis, MO 63122

Ph: 314-822-6595

<http://www.stlouisaudubon.org>

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Sign up for
Audubon
Speakers'
Bureau

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Annual (BBQ) Meeting

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April 22.

Write letters!

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ASM's 100th Anniversary

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